

## **Medical Alert Awareness Month**

by Staff Sgt. Daniel Hoyos  
Family Health Clinic

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. -- October is medical alert awareness month, highlighting the importance of knowing and recognizing the value of timely and accurate information in times of medical emergencies.

One way of get this information is by using a medical identification tag. These tags, which are worn as bracelets, necklaces or on clothing, identify the wearer as an individual with a medical condition that may require immediate attention. The tags serve as tools to provide information to emergency responders, physicians, and law enforcement personnel in the event that the individual is unable to communicate.

Common conditions warranting a medical alert identifier include diabetes, anaphylactic allergies, adrenal insufficiency, pacemakers or other medical devices, blood thinners, etc. About one in every five persons has a special medical problem.

Today, a body-worn identification emblem is supported by a 24-hour emergency medical information service. In addition to this service, the company that produces the body-worn emblem launched a portable USB-enabled device that allows for storage of medical records and history.